



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L48-LOC

JUL 20 1972

Memorandum

To: Washington Office and Field Directorate

From: Director

Subject: New Administrative Policy for Wilderness Designations
and Management--Reference Secretarial Order No. 2920

The enclosed memorandum of June 24, 1972, on this subject, from the Hon. Nathaniel P. Reed, Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, to the Director, National Park Service, and Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, establishes new administrative policies for wilderness classification and management.

There are several major changes from previous policy that should be highlighted for your special attention:

1. Wilderness Reserve: Lands classified in the master plan as potential primitive areas or wilderness, but which have been excluded from previous wilderness recommendations because of conflicting private uses or interests therein, may now be recommended as Wilderness Reserves when such lands "will within a determinable time qualify and be available Federal land." With respect to these reserves, the new policy provides that "a special provision should be included in the legislative proposal giving the Secretary of the Interior the authority to designate such lands as wilderness at such time he determines it qualifies." Normally, this would be a time subsequent to the elimination of the private uses and necessary restoration work or acquisition of the private interests by the United States.
2. Enclaves: "Wilderness Campsites," either existing or proposed, as described in the new policies under Visitor Use Structures and Facilities will not require an enclave. However, if these sites contain structures, such as primitive shelters, vault toilets, or small boat docks, which are to be retained, a specific provision relating thereto will be included in the proposed legislation, as mentioned under the Exceptions provision of the new policy.



National Parks Centennial 1872-1972

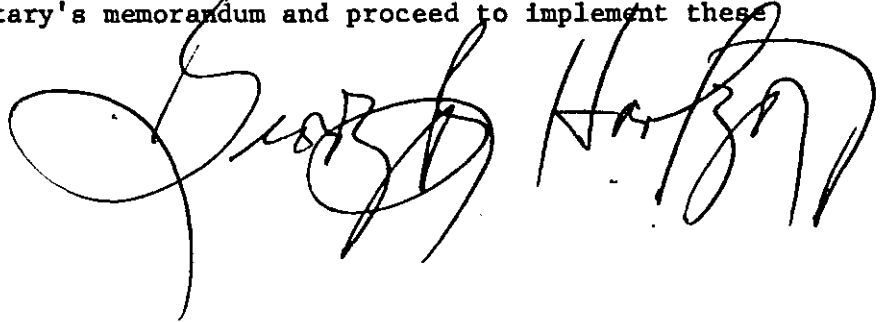
On the other hand, if more than "primitive shelter" is provided or proposed, an enclave will be required and delineated on the wilderness map. Examples of installations which exceed the "primitive shelter" criteria are those providing visitor comfort and convenience, such as bunks or other household furnishings, water and waste disposal systems more sophisticated than those described for "Wilderness Campsites," food, or special services, such as Mt. LeConte Lodge (Great Smokies), Granite Park Chalet (Glacier), and the High Sierra Camps (Yosemite).

3. Identification of Facilities: All existing and proposed structures and facilities within proposed wilderness or wilderness reserve, and in enclaves, are to be indicated on all wilderness maps. This will serve to identify in the legislative process the structures and facilities which are to be maintained or to be placed within these areas.

4. Management Zones: Management zones will be provided between the wilderness and the park boundary only where there are existing or proposed facilities or management practices which exceed those defined under Management.

5. Road Corridors: Lands adjacent to park roads and other access corridors are highly important for various types of visitor uses which often involve some facility development, such as bicycle trails, picnic areas, interpretive facilities, etc.; concentrated use where some crowding and lack of solitude is acceptable, such as overlooks, etc.; and intensive management and maintenance, such as vista clearing, etc. These activities are desirable and appropriate to fulfill the purpose for which the areas of the System were set aside, and such appropriate uses along access corridors should not be foreclosed by proposed wilderness or wilderness reserve designations.

These revised policies will be included in the Administrative Policy books as soon as possible. In the meantime, you should be guided by the Assistant Secretary's memorandum and proceed to implement these policies promptly.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George H. Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with large loops and is positioned to the right of the "Enclosure" text.

Enclosure